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PATENT
P-4286

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bierre et al.

Serial No.: 09/223,347

Art Unit: 1743

Filing Date: December 30, 1998

Examiner: L. Cross

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR UNIVERSAL IDENTIFICATION
OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 25, 2000 OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 25, 2000. Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the following amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

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REMARKS

a. **§103(a); Hulon in view of Kavanaugh**

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,842,153 to Hulon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,683,786 to Kavanaugh.

It is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the concepts of laser etching and specular reflectance of Kavanaugh on the container provided by Hulon.

The Examiner states that Hulon discloses a container for holding biological samples and that the container comprises a first tubular section having a closed end, and a